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Observations of some ten or twelve years in Maine, however, indicated strongly that the syrphid larvæ are, in that locality, the most efficient natural enemies of the aphids. In accordance, therefore, with the entomological policy of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station to solicit the cooperation of specialists for problems of prime importance, Professor C. L. Metcalf was invited to study the Syrphidæ of that state with particular reference to their larval habits.

Significant data were thus secured concerning which species of syrphids feed upon a given species of aphid. The publication, in bulletin form, of this and related information included the statement that a certain syrphid, *Pipiza pisticoïdes*, plays in the vicinity of Orono a rôle of first importance as a natural enemy of the woolly aphid of the apple. The larvæ feed so abundantly that the above ground colonies of this pest are well nigh exterminated by late summer.

Following upon this announcement a request came from Perth, Western Australia, for an importation of these flies in consideration of the fact that the woolly aphid is the most serious apple pest in that state. Accordingly, plans are underway for the shipment of *Pipiza pisticoïdes* and possibly other syrphids which accept the same diet.

It is never safe to predict results in an experiment of this sort, but the indications are in favor of a successful outcome. In which case the nice exchange of international courtesies—apples in Australia for oranges in America through benefit by insects—is of scientific as well as agricultural interest.

SCIENTIFIC ITEMS

WE record with regret the death of Professor Emil von Behring, of the University of Marburg, discoverer of diphtheria antitoxin; of Professor J. G. Darboux, permanent secretary of the

Paris Academy of Sciences and professor of mathematics at the Sorbonne; of George Masee, for many years head of the cryptogamic department of the Herbarium of the Kew Gardens, distinguished for his work in mycology; of M. Jules Courmont, professor of hygiene at Lyons; of G. Paladino, professor of histology and general physiology at the University of Naples, senator of the realm, and of General J. A. L. Bassot, the distinguished French geodesist.

DR. ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL, inventor of the telephone, was awarded the Civic Forum Gold Medal for distinguished public service in New York on March 21. The presentation address was made by Dr. John H. Finley, state commissioner of education. Dr. Bell is the third recipient of the medal. It was awarded to Major General George W. Goethals in 1914, and to Thomas A. Edison in 1915.

SIR J. J. THOMSON, Cavendish professor of physics at the University of Cambridge and president of the Royal Society, Sir David Prain, director of Kew Botanical Gardens, and Sir George Beilby, head of the Royal Technical College of Glasgow, have been elected trustees of the Carnegie Trust for Scottish Universities.

MRS. STEPHEN V. HARKNESS has given to Yale University funds to erect dormitories for the use of students of the college in the form of one or more quadrangles. It is said that the value of Mrs. Harkness's gift may exceed five million dollars.

It is reported that the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research has appropriated \$200,000 for the establishment of a hospital to be used for the instruction of surgeons in the Carrel-Dakin treatment of the wounded. It is expected that Dr. Alexis Carrel will be granted a leave of absence from France to return to New York and assume supervision of the work.